

Message Text

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45

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 EA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 MC-02 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

CU-04 SCI-06 AEC-11 RSR-01 /199 W

----- 041232

P R 241653Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6431

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMIBBASSY MEXICO 1810

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 5"652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR, PE

SUBJECT: PERU SEVERS DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH FRANCE

REF: LIMA 4971 (NOTAL)

1. IN PROTEST OVER FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS, PRIME MINISTER MERCADO ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WERE BEING SEVERED WITH FRANCE AND AMBASSADOR MORELLI RECALLED FROM PARIS. FRENCH AMBASSADOR CHAMBON HAD ALREADY LEFT LIMA LAST WEEK OSTENSIBLY TO VISIT HIS AILING WIFE.

2. MERCADO SAID THAT PERU HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO SEVER TIES AS PRESIDENT VELASCO THREATENED TO DO IN 1971 AND AGAIN LAST WEEK (REFTEL). THE PM EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT OTHER WESTERN HEMISPHERE NATIONS WOULD ADOPT FIRM POSITIONS.

3. IN ANSWER TO REPORTER'S QUESTION WHETHER FRENCH SALE OF AIRCRAFT TO PERU WOULD BE AFFECTED OR NOT, MERCADO EXPLAINED

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THAT MANY COUNTRIES CARRY ON COMMERCIAL RELATIONSIN THE

ABSENCE OF DIPLOMATIC LINKS. ELABORATING ON THIS ANSWER, MERCADO SAID THAT FRATERNAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN FRENCHMEN AND PERUVIANS WOULD GO ON AND THAT CULTURAL AND CONSULAR TIES WOULD CONTINUE. NEITHER MERCADO NOR ANY GOP SPOKESMAN COMMENTED ON WHAT EFFECT SEVERANCE WOULD HAVE ON FRENCH SALE OF MIRAGES TO PERU OR ON ANY ASPECT OF FRENCH ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

4. IN AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE, FOREIGN MINISTRY DESCRIBED PERU'S ACTION AS AN ENERGETIC PROTEST OVER FRANCE'S FAILURE TO HEED REPEATED DEMANDS, INCLUDING THE WORLD COURT'S, THAT FRANCE CEASE ATMOSPHERIC TESTING.

5. EMBASSY PARIS' COMMENTS ON FRENCH OFFICIAL REACTION TO BREAK INCLUDING EFFECT ON MILITARY SALES AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WOULD BE WELCOME.
BELCHER

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